

**CHAIR BACK REST WITH IMPROVED RESILIENCE AND SUPPORT**

A/N: 10/750,576; Filing Date: December 30, 2003

MACHIEL, et al.; Atty Ref: 77012-325124

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said fluid containing cushion is hermetically sealed.
4. (Currently Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said fluid containing cushion is sized and dimensioned to be at least coextensive with the area of [[a]] the user's lumbar region.
5. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said fluid containing cushion has a lower region and an upper region, and said cushion comprises one or more channels extending between said lower region and said upper region.
6. (Original) The chair of claim 5 wherein said channels are substantially vertical.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said fluid containing cushion is made of one or more plastic films selected from the group consisting of vinyls, polyurethanes, polyvinyl chlorides, ethylene vinyl acetates, urethane coated membranes, polyolefins, sarans, and engineered multi-layer films.

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10. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said seals are formed by a method selected from the group consisting of heat sealing, ultrasonic sealing, RF sealing, and adhesives.
11. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said fluid is selected from the group consisting of air, gas or gas mixtures, liquid, and flowable gel.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Amended) The chair of claim 18 wherein said cushion comprises a plurality of chambers extending from a lower region of the cushion to an upper region of the cushion.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Currently Amended) A chair having a seat and a tiltable back, said back comprising:
  - a rear support including a lumbar region defined by a curvature in the rear support, wherein the curvature conforms generally to a user's lumbar region;
  - a fluid containing cushion having a seal along a top portion, a seal along a bottom portion, a seal along a left side portion and a seal along a right side portion, said fluid containing cushion located forward of said rear portion; wherein
  - said fluid containing cushion includes two layers sealed to form a vertically extending central chamber of generally constant width and vertically extending left and right side chambers, each of said chambers being completely sealed from one another.

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19. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 18 wherein:  
said sealed central chamber extends between said top and bottom portions of said cushion between two spaced apart straight, vertically extending seams.
20. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 19 wherein:  
said left and right chambers extend between said top and bottom portions of said cushion.
21. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 18 wherein:  
said left side chamber is partially divided by a vertically directed seam; and  
said right side chamber is partially divided by a vertically directed seam.
22. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 21 wherein:  
said left side chamber includes a middle seam extending from said seal along said top portion of said cushion; and  
said right side chamber includes a middle seam extending from said seal along said top portion of said cushion.
23. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 22 wherein:  
said middle seam of said left chamber includes an enlarged lower end portion; and  
said middle seam of said right chamber includes an enlarged lower end portion.
24. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 23 wherein:  
said sealed central chamber extends between said top and bottom portions of said cushion between two spaced apart vertically extending seams.
25. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 24 wherein:  
said left and right chambers extend between said top and bottom portions of said cushions.

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26. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 25 wherein:  
said two layers of said fluid containing cushion are generally air impermeable.
27. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 26 wherein:  
each of said two layers of said fluid containing cushion includes multiple layers.
28. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 18 wherein:  
said two layers of said fluid containing cushion are generally air impermeable.
29. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 28 wherein:  
each of said two layers of said fluid containing cushion includes multiple layers.

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30. (Currently Amended) A chair having a seat and a tiltable back, said back comprising:

a rear support including a lumbar region defined by a curvature in the rear support, wherein the curvature conforms generally to a user's lumbar region;

a fluid containing cushion having a top portion, a bottom portion, a left side portion and a right side portion, said fluid containing cushion located forward of said rear portion;

a cushion layer located forward of said fluid containing cushion; and

an upholstery layer located forward of said cushion layer; wherein

said fluid containing cushion includes two layers sealed along a top portion, a bottom portion, a left side portion and a right side portion, first and second straight vertical seams attaching said two layers, said first and second vertical seals extending from the top portion seal to the bottom portion seal to form a first completely sealed centrally located fluid chamber, a third vertical seam extending from the top portion seal toward the bottom portion seal to form second and third side chambers, said second and third side chambers being in fluid communication with each other but not with said first chamber, and a fourth vertical seam extending from the top portion seal toward the bottom portion seal to form fourth and fifth side chambers, said fourth and fifth side chambers being in fluid communication with each other but not with said first chamber.

31. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 30 wherein:

said two layers of said fluid containing cushion are generally air impermeable.

32. (Previously Presented) The chair of claim 31 wherein:

each of said two layers of said fluid containing cushion includes multiple layers.